



Lexicon

Newsletter for Adult Education Staff Development

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CONFERENCES

CATESOL –
Sacramento, April 6-9

Videoconference GED
2002: Everything You
Need to Know –
Sacramento, April 27

California Council on
Adult Education (CCAЕ)
Annual Conference –
Fresno, May 5-6

Computer-Using
Educators (CUE) Spring
Conference – Palm
Springs, May 11-13

CASAS Summer
Institute – San Diego,
June 20-22

Distance Learning and Multimedia Learning

The goal of the Staff Development Institute is to make available the most useful and targeted professional development and technical assistance possible to the entire field of adult education providers. Therefore, Distance Learning and Multimedia Learning have become a priority for the Staff Development Institute in order to overcome several barriers preventing instructors and administrators from taking advantage of the many training opportunities available. These barriers include geographical isolation, difficulty of release time, and cost of travel.

Distance Learning offers any time, any place, any pace learning, and, with the distance learning courses aimed at lower technology requirements, most school and home computers with Internet access can give participants full access to the coursework. The first distance learning course online is *Family Literacy* (www.sdi.ca.gov),

aimed at a target audience of instructors desiring to become more fluent in using children's reading materials to structure lessons for their adult learners.

Multimedia Learning incorporates more than one modality in the course structure. *Fiscal Management* for new adult education administrators, being developed in collaboration with OTAN and available this spring, will offer a video (available for free to each adult education site), an online instructional course, and downloadable materials for use with the course.

Other new courses in development this spring include *Evaluating Instructional Software* (for instructors, coordinators, and administrators) and *SCANS for Classroom Implementation* (for coordinators and instructors). Look for the announcements for these free-of-charge courses being put online.

San Juan Adult Education's Distance Learning Project Targets Under-Served Population

The mission of San Juan Adult Education's Distance Learning Project is to offer instruction to "under-served" adults utilizing a non-traditional delivery method. Under-served adults are those who can't or won't use regular adult school programs because of personal obstacles like a lack of transportation, lack of child care, or limited English language skills. At San Juan, the non-traditional delivery method is cable

television, and the physical classroom for these students is their very own living room. San Juan teachers have created welcoming, on-air television classroom environments where students can call in and participate on-air. Students have other opportunities to connect with the teachers—through written assignments, off-air telephone

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ONLINE RESOURCES FOR ADULT EDUCATORS

Distance Learning

The California Distance Learning Project (CDLP) focuses on using communication through computers as a vehicle for student and teacher interaction. The goal is to increase access to adult basic learning services and help lay the groundwork for a California adult basic education distance learning infrastructure. **GO TO:** <http://www.otan.dni.us/cdlp>

The Distance Learning Resource Network (DLRN) is the dissemination project for the U.S. Department of Education Star Schools Program. Located at WestEd, this is a great resource for distance learning, web-based instruction, and related news, publications, literature reviews and reports. **GO TO:** <http://www.wested.org/tie/dlrn/>

The Distance Education Clearinghouse is a comprehensive and widely recognized web site bringing together distance education information and resources from national and international sources. **GO TO:** <http://www.uwex.edu/distd/home.html>

The above sites do not necessarily represent the views of SDI.

San Juan's Distance Learning Project (continued from page 1)

calls and voice mail, face-to-face meetings, and student gatherings called "Closing the Distance" events.

The ability of teachers to work with collaborative partners behind the camera as well as teach in front of the camera is a key element in the program's success. The students may see only the teacher offering them encouragement and instruction, but behind the camera during the on-air class there may be as many as 15 high school ROP students working as the crew while learning how to operate the studio equipment.

The Distance Learning Project is now involved in a pilot program that utilizes WebTVs placed in students' homes to offer ESL instruction via the Internet in addition to cable television classes.

The San Juan Adult Education Distance Learning Project is a unique collaboration of several partners, including representatives from education, non-profit organizations and private industry. The project was named a 1998-2000 "Program of Excellence" by the California Department of Education.

San Juan Adult Education teachers' understanding of cutting-edge technology, and their ability to translate it into daily practical use for adult students, adds to efforts to bridge the "digital divide" and ultimately make technology-delivered instruction accessible for all.

For more information on San Juan's Distance Learning Project, contact Lynn Parr Bartlett at 916-971-7419.

SDI Sponsor's Online Workgroups through WebBoard

The Staff Development Institute not only delivers training on the uses of technology, but diligently incorporates technology into its day-to-day operations. One such use of technology has been the development of online conferencing areas for special SDI projects. In collaboration with OTAN, SDI can bring members of these statewide projects together on the Internet through "workgroups" created with WebBoard software.

Sometimes referred to as forums or discussion groups, online conferencing allows participants to share information with others quickly and easily. WebBoard is a Web-based tool for online conferencing that is accessed through an Internet browser. Participants can view several topics of interest to their group and respond in a manner similar to e-mail. The conference area is monitored by a manager who keeps the topics organized and relevant.

Currently, three workgroups have been created. The *Small Schools Initiative* has regional workgroup areas to discuss current small school issues and share information for enhancing existing programs. The *Workforce Career Development* trainers have a workgroup to help them continue improving their delivery and training efforts. Several participants across the state have logged onto the *Bridges to Practice* workgroup to collaborate on their special project. *Bridges* members use the conference area to develop new techniques for learning disabled instruction, to share references, and to continue communication between participants of two state face-to-face meetings held in the north and south of the state during the year.

As SDI continues to develop new delivery systems, expedient and economical devices will be used for the advancement of adult education. Online conferencing is one such way.

News from the CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS



Distance Learning

Los Angeles: We have a full set of the Crossroads Café series available for check out by teachers, together with the Resource Books, Photo Stories and Worktexts. We will also be presenting the video workshop *On Common Ground* on April 28th at the L.A. Technology Center. A trainer will be present to lead participants through the materials. The series is targeted for classes in citizenship, civics, history, government, contemporary studies, political science and ESL at high-intermediate and advanced levels.

MAEP: There are two great resources in our region for distance learning: the Bay Area Distance Learning Group (BADLG), and the CCAE Distance Learning Consortium. The BADLG held their latest meeting March 16th at the San Mateo Adult School's SMART Center—questions can be directed to Gretchen Lammers (925-228-3276) or Linda Doherty (650-306-8866). The CCAE Distance Learning Consortium will be held April 5th, 10:00 am–12:00 pm, at the San Lorenzo Adult School.

Sacramento: With the 5% Applications out for the coming year, you may be thinking of starting a distance learning program for the first time, or expanding what you currently have. Either way, we have a variety of materials which may be of use to you. For video check-out programs, you can view several of the videotape programs used in California:

- *Learning English:* Provides viewers with beginning English lessons using familiar daily life situations.

- *Putting English to Work* (Series 2 and 3): Targeted to beginning high/intermediate ESL learners seeking to improve their employability.
- *Crossroads Café:* A blend of drama and comedy aimed at improving the English skills of the intermediate ESL student.

Print materials and suggestions for assessments are also available. Hopefully this spring we will add *Watch and Listen, Connect with English*, and *On Common Ground* to our library.

For computer-assisted instruction, we have information on delivering those services for GED preparation students. You can view software and materials explaining the types of reports for assessments which can be used. We also have notes from Dennis Porter's presentation last month at the Distance Learning Conference. This is an excellent overview of how to plan and manage a distance learning program.

Sweetwater: Desert Sands Adult School is partnering with local video stores to make the ESL instructional tapes used in our evening classes available to check out. We were able to purchase the tapes and place them in the six stores within our district. The tapes are checked out regularly according to store reports, and class attendance is up. Next year we will start phase two of the project—airing the first lessons on the local cable station.

Currently the San Diego Workplace Learning Resource Center has two pilot projects involving distance learning for low literacy ESL students.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS

<http://www.sdi.ca.gov/crrc>

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331 J St., Suite 180
Sacramento, CA 95814
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tkerns@jps.net
916-557-1150 / FAX 916-557-1149

Sweetwater Regional Resource
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458 Moss Street
Chula Vista, CA 91911-2896
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619-691-5791 / FAX 619-425-8728

The Staff Development Institute

CRRC News: Distance Learning (continued from Page 3)

The first project, funded through the Community College State Chancellor's Office, will put four modules of the VESL curriculum for Electronics Assembly on the web by the end of the calendar year. The modules are designed to stand alone and will be field tested before they are available statewide. The second project, funded through the California Distance Learning Project, will deliver an 8-week reading and writing class online for ESL employees of two local companies—Kyocera, an electronics manufacturing company, and NASSCO, a shipyard. These courses are instructor-led and will occur at a set time to enable lots of student-teacher and student-student interaction. The goal is to develop a model of online instruction that will be effective with an intermediate ESL population. A generic version of each course should be available in August.

For the last three years, San Diego Community College District has had a pilot distance learning project in their Continuing Education high school diploma program. The teacher delivers a lesson from a studio to students at the learning lab at North City's Career Center, and students communicate directly with the teacher during the lesson. Courses include American History and Government, Economics and Algebra I and II. Since there are not enough students at each site to constitute a class, distance learning has allowed us to retain students who might have been turned away. Next year, we may also have a countywide distance learning project for the program's literacy coalition. A subcommittee will approach KPBS about broadcasting the video series "TV411," and literacy programs may start using it on a checkout basis.

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